# Missouri Improvement Plan
## UNDERSTANDING TREND, BASELINE, INTERMEDIATE AND FINAL TARGETS
## Definitions and Examples

**PURPOSE:** To assist districts with understanding Trend, Baseline, Intermediate and Final Targets in completing an improvement plan in IMACS.  An example IMACS entry follows on page 3.

| Definition | Example | Reference Data |
|---|---|---|
| **Trend –** the past performance of an individual or group as measured over some time period.  Trend data can be used to project the future performance of an individual or group of individuals with and without the implementation of some objective.<br><br>Note: Trends are data points along a continuum so multiple trends are possible. | • Graph 1.1 indicates the dropout rate for IEP students is increasing at a rate of 0.5% each year. The trend data for the last two years are 4.8% in 2004-2005 and 5.3% in 2005-2006. | |
| **Baseline –** Level of performance at the "start" of data collection. The baseline is a "line in the sand", that can be used to measure change of important performance indicators for future reference. When baseline data is compared with data collected at later points in the educational process, decisions can be made as to whether students are making adequate progress.<br><br>Note: Baseline is generally the most recent data available. Only one baseline is possible. | • Graph 1.1 shows a baseline (2006-07) of 5.8% for IEP students as it is the most current year of dropout data available and thus the starting point for measuring change as a result of implementing improvement plan activities. | |

**Graph 1.1**
**Dropout Rates**
**IEP Students**

| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| IEP Trends & Baseline | 4.3% | 4.8% | 5.3% | 5.8% |

| Definition | Example | Reference Data |
|---|---|---|
| **Intermediate Target** – Intermediate and final target indicators should be measured in the same way. Intermediate targets are often performance levels that are expected to be achieved on the way to the target, often with specific achievement dates.<br><br>Note: Multiple intermediate targets are possible. | • After implementation of improvement planning activities, the district projects the dropout rate will decrease by 0.5% each year as depicted by the line on Graph 2.1. Intermediate targets for the first and second years are 5.3% and 4.8% respectively. | **Graph 2.1**<br>**Dropout Rates**<br>**Benchmarks & Target** |
| **Target** – Desired level of performance to be reached. A target is usually the criterion (long-term) level of desired performance. Often the target level is specified in the objective.<br><br>Note: Only one target is possible. | • Based on expected level of change as a result of improvement planning activities, the district projects a cumulative decrease of 2.0% over five years and set a target of 3.8% for 2011 as shown in Graph 2.1. | |

**Graph 2.1**
**Dropout Rates**
**Benchmarks & Target**

| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| IEP Baseline | 5.8% | | | | |
| IEP Intermediate & Final Targets | | 5.3% | 4.8% | 4.3% | 3.8% |

Based on the fictitious data used above, the following represents the information that could be entered into IMACS Improvement Plan (note that the term "benchmark" will be replaced with "intermediate target" in IMACS :

**Benchmarks and Target:**
Indicate the current baseline and the benchmarks and target that will be used to evaluate progress towards the objective:

- Add

| Type (click to edit) | Year | Percentage/Number | Delete? |
|---|---|---|---|
| Trend | 2003-2004 | 4.30 | ✗ |
| Trend | 2004-2005 | 4.80 | ✗ |
| Trend | 2005-2006 | 5.30 | ✗ |
| Baseline | 2006-2007 | 5.80 | ✗ |
| Benchmark | 2007-2008 | 5.30 | ✗ |
| Benchmark | 2008-2009 | 4.80 | ✗ |
| Benchmark | 2009-2010 | 4.30 | ✗ |
| Target | 2010-2011 | 3.80 | ✗ |